



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,138	02/27/2006	Greg Baily	78104092-N17105	3590

7590 09/12/2006
Intellectual Property Department
DeWitt Ross & Steven
8000 Excelsior Drive
Suite 401
Madison, WI 53717-1914

EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/535,138	BAILY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael C. Zarroli	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/17/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8, 14-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Weston.

Weston discloses a cable connector comprising: a. a male connector 10 including:

(1) a magnetic core 15a/b; (2) a male connector coil 13a/b wound about the magnetic core fig. 2, and (3) a male connector housing 12 surrounding the male connector coil and core; b. a female connector 11 including: (1) a female connector housing 21 having a female connector aperture 20 therein sized to closely receive the male connector housing fig. 2, and (2) a female connector coil 18a/b at least partially surrounding the aperture fig. 2, wherein the male connector coil is situated within and spaced from the female connector coil when the male connector housing is inserted within the female connector aperture (fig. 4 shows gap between coils 13 and 18).

Claims 14-15 Weston discloses that the male and female coils are single layer roll fig. 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weston in view of Bedoya et al.

Weston discloses a cable connector for a magnetic coupling fig. 2 for transferring electrical energy, the connector including a first housing 10, 12 enclosing the end of the cable 14, a first coil 13 of an induction coupling arrangement electrically connected to the end of the cable fig. 2 within the housing, the cable connector dimensioned to be detachably attached fig. 2 to a second housing 11, 21 enclosing a second coil 18 of the inductive coupling arrangement connected to one or more measuring circuits.

Weston does not specifically disclose a transducer and measuring circuit.

Bedoya discloses a transducer 40 connected to one end of the cable connector and a measuring circuit (100 connected at other end) connected at the other end of the inductive connector circuit. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include with Weston one end connected to a transducer and the other end of the connector system connected to a measuring system as taught by Bedoya. The suggestion for this is found in Weston from column 1 to column 2 line 27 but in particular column 1 lines 1-9.

Claim 2 Weston discloses that the first and second coils are enclosed in separate housings fig. 2, the first housing detachably attached within the second housing.

Claims 3-6 Weston discloses that the coupling is at the end of a cable connector connected to at least one transducer (see 103 statement above), the connector

including a first housing 10, 12 enclosing the end of the cable fig. 1, a first coil 13 of an induction coupling arrangement electrically connected to the end of the cable within the housing fig. 2, and a second housing 11 enclosing a second coil 18 of the inductive coupling arrangement, the housings detachably attached to make the signal coupling fig. 4 and, the first housing is hermetically sealed (molded formation see fig. 2) and, the second housing is dimensioned to allow free travel of the first housing to make the signal coupling with first and second housings are held together by suitable frictional means (all figures show male female connection).

6. Claims 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weston as applied to claim 8 above.

Weston discloses electrical communication but not specifically an ultra sound probe. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to connect one end of the device of Weston to an ultra sound probe. The suggestion for this found in Weston column 1 lines 59-68.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 11-13, 16-18 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The synthetic material between the housing and coils/core.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

MCZ
MCZ